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Kate Pew Wolters Grand Rapids Success for kids who become involved in the juvenile justice system may depend on their access to special education and mental health services. Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service (MPAS), the state nonprofit agency that advocates for persons with disabilities, can provide free training for professionals involved in the juvenile court system. Attorneys with MPAS have a wealth of experience in advocating for kids with access to special education services by participating in individualized education plan meetings and due process hearings. MPAS staff also frequently represent children who seek mental health services and persons with developmental disabilities who are entitled to services through community mental health organizations. MPAS training can provide juvenile court professionals with information that can be passed on to parents and children who are having difficulty accessing these services. They can also explain what MPAS can offer to families so that court-related professionals can make referrals to MPAS for children to receive direct representation. Special education advocacy manuals and materials regarding accessing Community Mental Health (CMH) services are available at no charge. A training session can be scheduled for a convenient date and time at the courthouse or another location in your area. To arrange for training, please contact Stacy Hickox at 517-487-1755 or shickox@mpas.org.